

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott  
Joel Jacobs  
Marshall Johnson  
Edward Garvey  
LeRoy Koppendraye

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of **U.S. West  
Communications's** Request for Approval of  
Certified Actual Costs Associated with the  
**Becker County** 911 Emergency Telephone  
Services System

ISSUE DATE: September 11, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P421/ES-00-1060**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911  
SYSTEM COSTS

**BACKGROUND**

On May 27, 1986, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Becker County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On November 25, 1987, the Commission approved the actual costs Twin Valley-Ulen Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Becker County.

On March 9, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs West Central Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Becker County.

On March 10, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Norman County Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Becker County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Hohman Telephone Company and Norman County Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service System in Becker County.

On May 25, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Callaway Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service System in Becker County.

On August 3, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs U S West Communications (formerly known as Northwestern Bell) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service System into service in the Becker County.

On December 21, 1988, the Commission approved the recertification costs U S West Communications incurred for the provision of 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Becker County. The original certification approved on August 3, 1988, reflected only one circuit each for the Audubon and Cormorant/Lake Park exchanges. The recertification reflected two circuits each for these two exchanges.

On November 27, 1991, the Commission approved the actual costs East Otter Tail Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service into service in Becker County.

On November 23, 1998, the Commission approved the actual costs Independent Emergency Services, LLC incurred for the provision of Automatic Number Identification (ANI) service in Becker County.

On March 23, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs Minnestoa Independent Interexchange Corporation incurred for the provision of 911 ANI Support System costs.

On September 2, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs Hutchinson Telephone Company incurred for installing a portion of Automatic Location Identification (ALI) system in the 911 Emergency Services system in Becker County.

On May 1, 2000, the Commission approved the actual costs East Otter Tail Telephone Company incurred for installing a portion of ANI and ALI in the 911 Emergency Services system in Becker County.

### **CURRENT FILING**

In January and February 1988, U. S. West Communications (U.S. West) installed central office equipment at the Detroit Lakes Exchange and installed interexchange circuits for the provision of a 911 Emergency Services system with provisions for ANI service to the Callaway, Osage, Wolf Lake, Frazee, White Earth, Audubon, Lake Park, and Waubun Exchanges (costs certified by the Commission on August 3 and December 21, 1988). At that time, U.S. West did not have a tariff rate for some of the ANI equipment that was installed. A tariff was eventually filed becoming effective December 11, 1992.

On May 12, 2000, U.S West certified the actual costs for the ANI equipment (tariff filing is listed as "Basic 911 with Feature Package and ANI") for the period from December 11, 1992 to February 16, 1997.

U.S. West is now requesting Commission approval of the actual ANI system costs. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

U. S West Communications has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A, reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Becker County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Becker County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

**ORDER**

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF RAMSEY )

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Becker County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No.P421/ES-00-1060.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION  
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500 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING  
658 CEDAR STREET  
ST PAUL MN 55155

Subscribed and sworn to before me, \_\_\_\_\_

a notary public, this \_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public